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Minutes

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1985

October 3, 1985

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Recommended Citation

Council on Academic Affairs, "October 3, 1985" (1985). *Minutes*. 728.
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MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

October 3, 1985

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The meeting was held at 2:00 p.m., October 3, 1985 in the Arcola-Tuscola Room of the University Union.

Members present: Dr. Aulabaugh, Dr. Barger, Dr. Baumgardner, Mr. Brunsvold, Mr. Devriese, Dr. Hockman, Mrs. Keiter, Mr. Lynch, Dr. Saltmarsh, Mrs. Stoner, Vice President Schick, and Ms. Schaeffer. Absent: Dr. Ivarie and one student member

Visitors: Mr. Burke of The Daily Eastern News, Dr. McGinnis, Dr. Carol Stevens, Dr. Soderberg, Dr. Switzer, Dr. Whitley, Dr. Bates, Dr. Hummel, Dr. Faust, Dr. Scott Smith, Dean Laible

I. Minutes of September 19, 1985

The minutes were approved with the following corrections: p.1, Communications, 4. Dr. Barger was appointed to the Committee on Academic Computing; and p.2, item VII, delete "and one year of Fine Arts or Foreign Language" from the second sentence of Entrance Requirements.

II. Communications:

1. From Vice President Schick - summary of academic waivers granted and denied during the month of August - 9/6/85.
2. From Council on Graduate Studies - Minutes of 9/17/85.
3. From Vice President Schick - Approval of executive actions taken by Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee - 9/27/85.
4. From Council on Teacher Education - Minutes of 9/24/85.
5. From Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee - Minutes of 9/16/85.
6. From Vice President Schick - Academic waiver report for September, College of Business - 10/1/85.
7. From Vice President Schick - Academic waiver report for September, College of HPER - 10/2/85.

III. Proposed New Course, EIU 4022, A Lincolnian View of American Democracy - (85-27)

Dr. Whitley and Dr. McGinnis presented the proposed new course. Dr. Baumgardner called for the vote which resulted in it passing unanimously. This action approved the following.

EIU 4022 - A Lincolnian View of American Democracy (2-0-2)

IV. Updated Report on Writing Competency Examination

Dr. Switzer presented the report to the Council. He reported, in part, that the exam consists of three parts, two written and one objective. The writing samples are persuasive and expository, each of approximately 250 words. The directions for each essay contain a specific purpose for the writing, the kind of material to be included, and a specific audience. The third part of the exam, the objective, consists of two sections--sentence combining and a series of cloze paragraphs. The sentence combining exercises require the combining of several short choppy sentences related in content into one sentence. The cloze paragraph requires the addition of certain key words.

The readers for the examination come from all Colleges in the University. They serve for a three-year period, with one-third of the readers replaced each year with newly trained ones. Each year a trainer, skilled in the primary trait/holistic method of grading, conducts a two-day seminar to prepare the new group of readers.

The writing assessment program reached full implementation in the 1983-84 academic year. Each year over 1,500 students take the examination.

At this point, 93.4% of the students taking the exam have passed it. Most who have repeated the examination have passed it on the second attempt, with a few students requiring additional attempts. It appears that our own four-year students have a better success rate on the examination than transfer students, though we are still working with a limited sample.

Since 1982, Eastern has been invited to make six presentations on aspects of our writing assessment program at state and national professional meetings. In addition we have received numerous requests for information about the program from public and private universities throughout the country.

V. Updated Report on Senior Seminars

Dr. Whitley presented the report to the Council. He reported, in part, that at the present time 36 Senior Seminars have been approved. On the average, it is intended that 8 to 10 Seminars should be developed each year. All seminars share certain traits, including a writing component, reading assignments, and responsibility for taking part in discussions, formally or informally. It is anticipated that sections offered Spring, Intersession, and Summer 1986 will bring the total number of sections offered for Academic Year 1985-86 to the 70 sections originally estimated to be needed to allow students to complete the requirement. The evaluation of Senior Seminar as a part of General Education continues to be carried out through the use of the ACT COMP, a standardized testing program being used to evaluate the General Education abilities of Eastern students and graduates. This semester, a number of entering Freshmen were given the ACT COMP as the initial step in a linear study to determine the degree of improvement of General Education abilities. Students from this initial group will be re-tested as Seniors to evaluate levels of improvement. Norms will be compared to universities similar to Eastern to determine the effectiveness of our General Education program as compared to others at comparable universities.

VI. Request to use A&S 3001 for General Education Distribution Credit (85-24)

Dr. Barger made a motion to remove the item from the table, seconded by Dr. Baumgardner. The motion passed unanimously. Dean Laible and Dr. Smith presented the request to the Council. Dean Laible, Dr. Smith, Dr. Bates, Dr. Hummel, and Dr. Faust answered questions regarding the request. Dr. Saltmarsh called for a vote on the motion to approve the proposal which resulted in it failing with the following votes: Yes - Barger, Brunsvold, Lynch. No - Aulabaugh, Baumgardner, Hockman, Keiter, Saltmarsh, Stoner. Devriese was absent at this point.

VII. Mr. Brunsvold questioned Dean Laible on a portion of the Executive Officer's report which requests that a section of PSY 2310 be designated as PSY 2315 and restricted to elementary and junior high school education majors. Discussion resulted in a motion by Brunsvold, seconded by Aulabaugh to send the proposal back to the Psychology Department for further study. The motion passed with the following votes. Yes - Aulabaugh, Barger, Baumgardner, Brunsvold, Stoner. No - Hockman, Keiter, Lunch, Saltmarsh. Devriese was absent at this point.

VIII. Draft resolution on Entrance Requirements

Dr. Barger presented a draft proposal to be sent to the BHE and BOG regarding entrance requirements to the University. Discussion of the draft

resulted in Dr. Hockman and Dr. Aulabaugh being appointed to draft a second resolution to be presented at the next CAA meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Sue Reis
Recording Secretary

Executive Officer's Report:

ECN 3810 - Delete last sentence from catalog description: "Credit for graduation not granted to economics majors." Change effective at once.
ENG 4901 - Change course from Group VI to Group I. Effective Spring 1986.

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETING
Arcola-Tuscola Room, University Union
October 17, 1985 - 2:00 p.m.

Agenda:

Draft of proposed resolution to be sent to IBHE and BOG by Drs. Hockman and Aulabaugh